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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CHAU T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao, US Patent No. 6,581,056, and further in view of Justice et al. (Justice), US Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0023634.

4. As to independent claim 1, Rao discloses a document information processing apparatus comprising: a plain document input unit for inputting a plain document;

a dictionary storage unit for storing a dictionary used for form element analysis and syntactic analysis (col. 5, line 60 – col. 6, line 36);

a form element analyzer for performing a form element analysis on the plain document inputted from said plain document input unit by using the

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dictionary stored in said dictionary storage unit so as to decompose the plain document into tokens (col. 5, line 60 – col. 6, line 36);

a syntax analyzer for analyzing a part of speech of each of the tokens obtained by said form element analyzer based on a syntax of said plain document (col. 6, lines 18-36);

However, Rao does not explicitly disclose generate a structured document containing meaningful words; a data storage unit for storing data used for a markup process; an element refinement processing unit for performing the associated with each markup process of reading and adding data of the meaningful words included in the structured document generated by said syntax analyzer and stored in said data storage unit to each of the meaningful words so as to generate a markup document; and a markup document output unit for outputting the markup document generated by said element refinement processing unit. Justice discloses transformation processor (element refinement processing unit) for transforming content items (meaningful words) in a text file into markup file that includes metadata such as tags that are associated with a number of content elements (Figs. 2-3 and pages 1-2, paragraphs [0016]-[0018]). Also, Justice discloses once the markup file is created, then it may be transmitted back to client via the network or to some other entity on the network (page 3, paragraph [0035]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Justice and Rao to include generate a structured document containing meaningful words; a data storage unit for storing data used for a markup process; an element refinement

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processing unit for performing the associated with each markup process of reading and adding data of the meaningful words included in the structured document generated by said syntax analyzer and stored in said data storage unit to each of the meaningful words so as to generate a markup document; and a markup document output unit for outputting the markup document generated by said element refinement processing unit. Justice suggests that converting the text file to markup file since the markup file is more searchable and useful to public users.

5. As to dependent claim 2, Rao and Justice disclose a text document input unit for generating a plain text document and sending it to said plain document input unit (Justice, page 2, paragraph [0024] and page 3, paragraph [0032], a user of the client 106 using user input devices generates content items such as publishing content that is embodied in the form of the text file).

6. As to dependent claim 3, Rao and Justice disclose an external communication input unit for inputting plain document from outside said apparatus by communication, and sends it to said plain document input unit (Justice, page 2, paragraph [0024] and page 3, paragraph [0032], a user of the client 106 using user input devices generates content items such as publishing content that is embodied in the form of the text file).

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7. As to dependent claim 6, Rao and Justice disclose an external communication output unit for sending the markup document from said markup document output unit to outside said apparatus (Justice, page 3, paragraph [0035]).

8. As to dependent claim 7, Rao and Justice disclose an external communication output unit for sending the markup document from said markup document output unit to outside said apparatus (Justice, page 3, paragraph [0035]).

9. Claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao and Justice as discussed in claims 1-3 and 6-7 above, and further in view of Chen et al. (Chen), US Patent No. 7,020,685.

10. As to dependent claim 4, Rao and Justice, however, do not explicitly disclose an external communication input unit for inputting a document on which a markup process performed from outside said apparatus by communication, and a markup document analyzer for analyzing the document on which the markup process is performed from said external communication input unit and removing markups from the document so as to generate a plain document and send to said markup document input unit. Chen discloses translating the extracted content from the content-type used by the application such as WML (wireless markup language) or HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) to a content type that can be

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understood by SMSC (Short Message Service Center) such as text/plain for transmission to the wireless device (col. 8, lines 42-55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chen and Rao and Justice to include converting the markup language document to plain or text document since SMS such as text/plain can be sent through a narrowband channel that incurs a very low operating cost to the service providers.

11. As to dependent claim 8, Rao, Justice and Chen disclose an external communication output unit for sending the markup document from said markup document output unit to outside said apparatus (Justice, page 3, paragraph [0035]).

12. Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao and Justice as discussed in claims 1-3 and 6-7 above, and further in view of Guck, US Patent No. 5,848,415.

13. As to dependent claim 5, Rao and Justice, however, do not explicitly disclose an external communication input unit for inputting an e-mail from outside said apparatus by communication, and an e-mail structure analyzer for analyzing a structure of the e-mail from said external communication input unit so as to generate a plain document, and for sending the plain document to markup document input unit. Guck discloses one converter could convert an e-mail

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message into a text/plain file while another converter could convert a plain/text file to an html (col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guck and Rao and Justice to include analyzing a structure of email to generate a plain document and sending it to a markup document input unit. Guck suggests that converting an e-mail message into a text/plain file and/or converting a plain/text file to an html would accommodate formatting requirements of multiple client users.

14. As to dependent claim 9, Rao, Justice and Guck disclose an external communication output unit for sending the markup document from said markup document output unit to outside said apparatus (Justice, page 3, paragraph [0035]).

15. Claims 10-11 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao and Justice as discussed in claims 1-3 and 6-7 above, and further in view of Brooke et al. (Brooke), US Patent No., 6,748,569.

16. As to dependent claim 10, Rao and Justice, however, do not explicitly disclose wherein said element refinement processing unit includes an element relation analyzer associating a meaningful element with each of the meaningful words included in the structured document generated by said syntax analyzer, the meaningful element indicating a meaning of each of the meaningful words.

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Brooke discloses markup language (XML) lets authors markup data with author-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) that specify the nature of the data, and also enables users to create unique tags that identify their information in more meaningful ways (col. 6, lines 4-32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Brooke and Rao and Justice to include associating a meaningful element with each of the meaningful words included in the structured document generated by said syntax analyzer, the meaningful element indicating a meaning of each of the meaningful words so users/authors can organize the customized data structures.

17. As to dependent claim 11, Rao, Justice and Brooke disclose a proper name element processing unit for adding a markup to a proper name element indicating a proper name, and said element relation analyzer starts said proper name element processing when the meaningful element is a proper name element (Justice discloses transformation processor (element refinement processing unit) for transforming content items (meaningful words) in a text file into markup file that includes metadata such as tags that are associated with a number of content elements (Figs. 2-3 and pages 1-2, paragraphs [0016]-[0018]).

18. As to dependent claim 14, Rao and Justice, however, do not explicitly disclose a position element processing unit for adding a markup to position element indicating a position, and said element relation analyzer starts said

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position element processing unit when the meaningful element is a position element. Brooke discloses markup language (XML) lets authors markup data with author-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) that specify the nature of the data, and also enables users to create unique tags that identify their information in more meaningful ways (col. 6, lines 4-32). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to acknowledge that the author/user-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) can be anything such as position element indicating position. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Brooke, and Rao and Justice to include adding a markup to position element indicating a position, and said element relation analyzer starts said position element processing unit when the meaningful element is a position element so users/authors can organize the customized data structures.

19. As to dependent claim 15, Rao and Justice, however, do not explicitly disclose a current position estimation unit for estimating a current position corresponding to the position element, and said position element processing unit adds the current position from said current position estimation unit, as a markup, to the position element. Brooke discloses markup language (XML) lets authors markup data with author-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) that specify the nature of the data, and also enables users to create unique tags that identify their information in more meaningful ways (col. 6, lines 4-32). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to acknowledge that

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the author/user-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) can be anything such as a current position element indicating current position. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Brooke, and Rao and Justice to include estimating a current position corresponding to the position element, and said position element processing unit adds the current position from said current position estimation unit, as a markup, to the position element so users/authors can organize the customized data structures.

20. As to dependent claim 16, Rao and Justice, however, do not explicitly disclose an act element processing unit for adding a markup to an act element indicating an act, and said element relation analyzer starts said act element processing unit when the meaningful element is an act element. Brooke discloses markup language (XML) lets authors markup data with author-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) that specify the nature of the data, and also enables users to create unique tags that identify their information in more meaningful ways (col. 6, lines 4-32). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to acknowledge that the author/user-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) can be anything such as an act element indicating an act. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Brooke, and Rao and Justice to include adding a markup to an act element indicating an act, and said element relation analyzer starts said act element

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processing unit when the meaningful element is an act element so users/authors can organize the customized data structures.

21. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao, Justice and Brooke as discussed in claims 10-11 and 14-16 above, and further in view of Ballantyne et al. (Ballantyne), US Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0044811.

22. As to dependent claim 12, Rao and Justice however, do not explicitly disclose a time element processing unit for adding a markup to a time element indicating a time, and said element relation analyzer starts said time element processing unit when the meaningful element is a time element. Brooke discloses markup language (XML) lets authors markup data with author-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) that specify the nature of the data, and also enables users to create unique tags that identify their information in more meaningful ways (col. 6, lines 4-32). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to acknowledge that the author/user-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) can be anything such as time element indicating time. To support this analysis, Ballantyne discloses in Fig. 5 that "time" element indicating time. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ballantyne, Brooke, and Rao and Justice to include adding a markup to a time element indicating a time, and said element relation analyzer

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starts said time element processing unit when the meaningful element is a time element so users/authors can organize the customized data structures.

23. As to dependent claim 13, Rao and Justice, however, do not explicitly disclose a time processing unit for computing a date corresponding to a time element, and said time element processing unit adds the date from said time processing unit, as a markup, to the time element. Brooke discloses markup language (XML) lets authors markup data with author-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) that specify the nature of the data, and also enables users to create unique tags that identify their information in more meaningful ways (col. 6, lines 4-32). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to acknowledge that the author/user-defined elements (opening and closing pairs of tags) can be anything such as date element indicating date. To support this analysis, Ballantyne discloses in Fig. 5 that "date" element indicating date. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ballantyne, Brooke, and Rao and Justice to include adding the date from said time processing unit, as a markup, to the time element so users/authors can organize the customized data structures.

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Conclusion

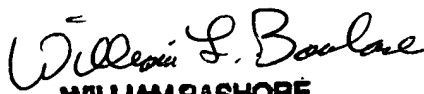
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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